

Appln. No.: 09/818,721
Amdt. Dated March 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated January 9, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method utilizing a computer system that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing with the carrier physical mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and the sender's name and address;

capturing by electronic and optical means the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender from the physical mail;

translating the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address; by checking a postal address database and the recipient's e-mail database;

notifying the recipient electronically by the recipient of the availability of the deposited physical mail;

notifying the carrier electronically by the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered;

notifying the carrier that the sender wants the deposited physical mail to be delivered directly to the recipient or that the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail; and

delivering physical mail to the recipient by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier, if the sender elects to permit the recipient to divert the physical mail.

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2. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the sender places an indication on the physical mail specifying that the physical mail should not be diverted by the recipient.
3. (original) The method claimed in claim 2, further including the step of:
charging the sender for placing an indication on the physical mail specifying that the physical mail should not be diverted by the recipient.
4. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the sender places an indication on the physical mail specifying that the physical mail should be delivered only as specified by the sender.
5. (original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the step of:
charging the sender for placing an indication on the physical mail specifying that the physical mail should be delivered only as specified by the sender.
6. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient would like the physical mail delivered.